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# THE PRESS

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## Two Torrance Boys Admit Setting PV Fire

### City Fire Dept. Assists at Blaze

Two juvenile boys 11 and 12 years old who live in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance have admitted that they were playing with matches in Palos Verdes and started the 75-acre fire which swept through the brush and wooded area between the Plaza section and Palos Verdes Golf Course.

The fire raged uncontrolled for more than three hours before being brought under control by fire units from five South Bay cities, which were joined by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Torrance police and fire units responded to a call for assistance by Palos Verdes firemen about a half an hour after the blaze was reported. Units under command of Fire Chief J. J. Benner worked furiously to control the wind-whipped and fast moving fire.

The fire did not cause either injury or property damage but Palos Verdes Fire Chief Jack Hansen said a valuable watershed area has been lost.

That loss could cause serious flood problem in case winter rains are excessive. Other cities sending fire equipment included Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo.

Also assisting were police units from Torrance, Redondo Beach, the Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

Streets in the fire area soon were jammed with the autos of sightseers as the black cloud of smoke drifted skyward.

Police were kept busy clearing streets to allow the fire equipment to pass through freely. Firemen experienced a few tense moments at one point during the fire when the blazing brush surrounded a Redondo Beach fire truck which was stuck in the sand.

Fortunately, the fire raged past the truck, leaving it unharmed.

### Freak Electrical Storm Strikes

Lightning flashed and thunder boomed early this morning as an unexpected storm moved through the Torrance area.

Reports came in to police switchboards of power poles being hit by lightning and hot wires arcking.

Over 23 hundredths of an inch of rain was reported by 8 a.m. by the Torrance airport, as streets and intersections began to fill with water.

### GRIEVING FATHER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO FIREMEN

Charles Reid, who has just suffered the loss of his 14-year-old son to asthma and a respiratory ailment, called the Press Monday to express his gratitude to the men of the Torrance Fire Department who worked so diligently to save his dying boy.

"People of Torrance should be proud to have such a group of men dedicated to saving lives, asking no credit and doing such a great job," said Reid.

The fire department was called Sunday morning when Chris James Reid, 5233 Vanderhill Rd., a long sufferer of respiratory trouble, stopped breathing. Within four minutes firemen were on the scene, and immediately started mouth to mouth resuscitation and continued until the rescue unit arrived from headquarters station.

The firemen continued to work on the boy for more than 40 minutes but all efforts were futile.

"They did more than their share," said Reid, "and I know my son, as well as myself, would like our friends to know."

"Too often public servants such as police and firemen are subjected to too much harassment and abuse, when they should be commended for their work, both past and present," Reid added.



**SORCERESS DOLL** won first place in its class for Mrs. Nellie Kuska of Lomita at United Federation of Doll Clubs. Made in the 18th Century, the

mechanical doll is in good condition, boasts life-like skin, blown glass eyes, original hand-made costume. —PRESS photo

### It's Back To School!

(See page C-8 for area schools)

Parents may register children in the elementary schools any day this week from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m.

Registration and programming in the high schools continues today from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Parents are urged to register new students as soon as possible.

Students will return to school Sept. 11. Total enrollment expected is 23,077 in grade schools; 7,739 in high schools; 165 in special education classes.

Total enrollment: 30,981.

### Bright Blue Ribbon Holds First Place Honors for Doll

A bright blue ribbon to signify the first prize was awarded to a French doll made in the 18th Century which was entered in competition with dolls from all over the United States by Mrs. J. B. (Nellie) Kuska of 24201 Walnut Ave., Lomita.

The prize was won at the annual meeting of the United Federation of Doll Clubs which was held recently in Los Angeles.

Made in Paris, the mechanical doll is dressed in its original clothing, a costume of a Spanish sorceress.

On a table in front of the "sorceress," are two pots and a square block.

#### Magic Wand

While the lady magician's head moves from side to side, her hand waves a magic wand which make the pots and block move up and down revealing the small, moving heads of a monkey, a clown and a man.

The doll, a Jumeau, is about three feet tall and has 14 separate movements. In addition, a music box provides a tune for each movement of the entire cycle.

Mrs. Kuska, owner of many rare and valuable dolls, acquired the French "sorceress" doll from a private collection in Ohio several years ago.

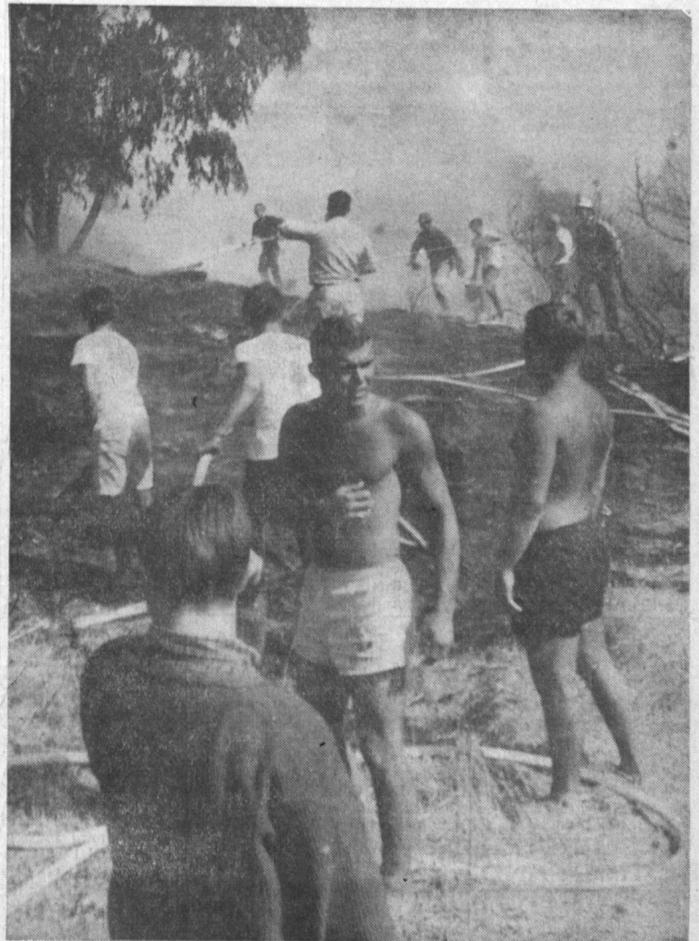
More than 1,000 dolls were entered from clubs in each state of the Union at the annual convention and were divided into different classes.

The Kuska doll won the first place in the class for mechanical dolls—with motion and music.



**RECEIVING TROPHY** from Dick Winne, dance chairman of the teen dance sponsored by the Torrance Peace Officers Association are members of the Persuaders Dance Band.

Five surf bands recently competed for the trophy at a battle of the bands at the old Grand Theater. Boys are left to right, Gary Kohfield, Ed Fournier, Winne, Pete Ferreri, and Jim Tucker. —PRESS photo



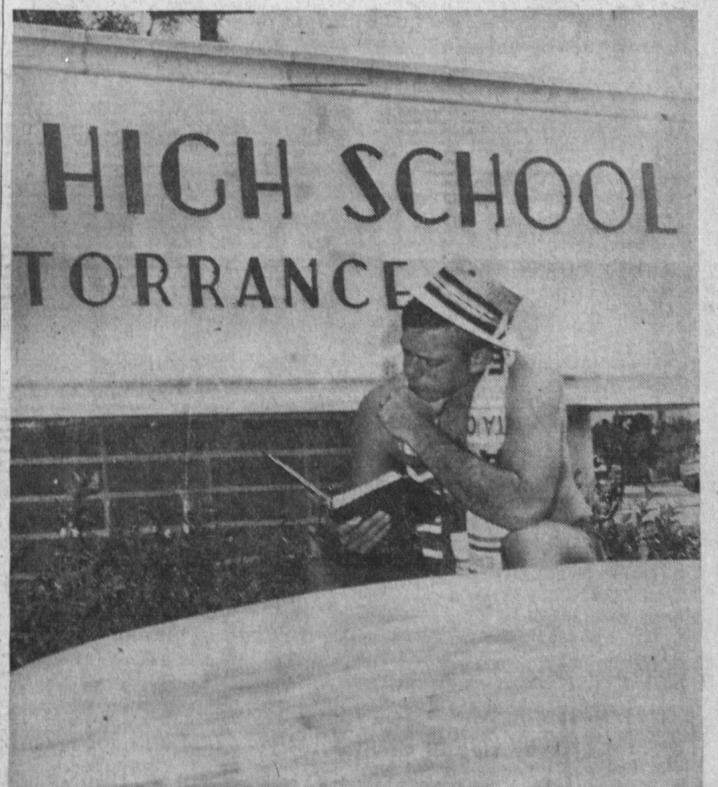
**THIS WAS THE SCENE** as volunteers joined professional firemen in fighting brush fire which raged in the wooded and brush area between the Plaza section and the Palos Verdes Golf Course.

Two juvenile boys from Torrance have admitted that they were playing with matches and started the blaze. Firemen from five South Bay cities pitched in to bring the fire under control. —PRESS photo



**BLACK SMOKE** soared skyward from brush fire and attracted automobiles filled with sightseers. Police assisted

firemen by keeping the way clear for the fire equipment to roll into the heart of the blaze.



**BOOKS FOR SURF BOARDS** is the theme these days as George Creed puts summer behind him as school agers

have done since schools were invented. Schools in Torrance soon will be opening, but summer always comes again. PRESS photo by David Ranns



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